### The French

### Revolution

### French Revolution mural

### Mckay Ch. 19

Learning objectives

* What were the factors behind the re3volutions of the late 18th century?
* Why and how did American colonists forge a new, independent nation?
* How did the events of 1789 result in a constitutional monarchy in France, and what were the consequences?
* Why and how did the French Revolution take a radical turn entailing terror at home and war with European powers?
* Why did Napoleon Bonaparte assume control of France and much of Europe, and what factors led to his downfall?
* How did the slave revolt on colonial Saint-Domingue lead to the creation of the independent nation of Haiti in 1840?

**Causes**

# ***Ch. 19-1 p. 610-615 Background to the Revolution***

1. Identify the status and privileges of each of the following groups in 18th century Europe.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Group | Who were they? | Traits and privileges |
| Nobles | *Less than 2% of pop. Owned 25% of agricultural land*  *Middle class professionals, merchants, guild masters monopolized economic activity* | *Exempt from most taxation*  *Exclusive hunting rights*  *Could bear swords and wear gold ribbons* |
| Peasants & urban laborers | *Majority of population* | *Paid most taxes and were excluded from the world of privilege.*  *Struggled with rising prives as population rose in mid 1700s and had to work harder and longer to survive. This meant women and children entered the paid labor force* |

1. The ideas of liberty and equality were the central ideas of classical liberalism. Define these ideas.

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| --- | --- |
| Liberty | *Individual human rights, it opposed the monarchial power of regulating speech, religion, arbitrary laws and judges. It also called for a new king od gov. where the people were sovereign and would choose legislators who would represent them.* |
| Equality | *All people should be equal before the law and have the same rights and liberties, except for equality between men and women, and slavery. It did not mean economic equality, but an equal opportunity for economic gain.* |

1. What were the limitations to the idea of *equality?*

*Slaves and women were not considered equal with white men*

1. According to Locke, what is the function of government?

*The gov. should protect the natural rights of man – life, liberty, and property*

1. “Representative government did not mean democracy.” (Mckay, 613) What did late-18th century liberals mean by this idea? *Liberals wanted voting limited to white men who owned property and had a “stake in society” This idea appealed to the educated middle classes and members of the hereditary nobility in western Europe, creating an alliance between landed aristocrats and wealthy commoners. The poor had little interest since they were busy trying to earn a living.*

***Ch. 19-2 p. 615-619 The American Revolutionary Era***

1. Who had the better argument with regard to the taxation problem, the Americans or the British? Explain. *The British felt the Americans were as represented as most English people; taxes on Americans were much less than in England or anywhere else in Europe; England needed money to offset the doubled national debt from expense of maintaining a force in America and the Seven Years’ War.*
2. What role did the European powers play in the American victory and what – if anything - did they gain?

*French provided weapons, soldiers, and leadership as they sought revenge on Britain for the loss in the Seven Years’ War; cut loose at the end of the war by Americans, who feared France would give its ally Spain territory in Americas. Spain and Dutch declared war on Britain during this time also, but gained nothing.*

# Identification

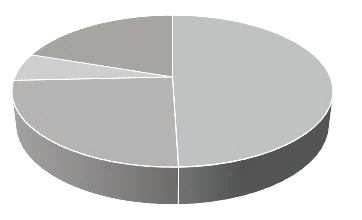
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| --- | --- |
| *Common Sense*  *1775* | *Written by Thomas Paine, it was an attack on English rule and helped mobilize public opinion in favor of independence. He said it didn’t make sense for a small island country thousands of miles away to rule the new continent.* |
| Declaration of Independence  July 4, 1776 | *Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, it was written by Thomas Jefferson and others and proclaimed the natural rights of mankind and the sovereignty of the American states. It universalized the traditional rights of English people and made them the rights of all mankind.* |
| Treaty of Paris (1783) | *Treaty that ended the American Revolution. Britain recognized the independence of the 13 colonies and ceded its North American territory to the Americans.* |

1. Explain the following traits of *classical liberalism*

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| --- | --- |
| Liberty | *- Individual freedoms, political safeguards, and representative government (not democracy)* |
| Equality | *Equality before the law, not equality of political participation of wealth or equal rights for slaves, indigenous peoples, or women* |

# ***Ch. 19-3 p. 619-625 Revolution in France***

1. Complete the diagram below and indicate the annual French budget in 1786.



\* <20% for

functions of state

\* 20% for military

\* 6% Royal family and Versailles

50 % Interest payments

on national debt

1. Why was the financial crisis in France so much more severe than in England, which had a greater debt?

*France had no central bank or paper currency and had difficulty obtaining new loans. Unlike England, it couldn’t print more money.*

1. List the chart below on Madame de Pompadour, mistress of King Louis XV

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Personal background | Political influence on France | Influence on the King |
| *Daughter of a disgraced bourgeois financier*  *Of low birth rather than nobility like the usual mistresses* | *Played a key role in bringing about France’s break with Prussia and its alliance with Austria* | *Contributed to the desacralization of the monarch as libelous pamphlets criticized the king’s choice and saw him stripped of the aura of God’s anointed to a degenerate.* |

1. Why did Louis XIV call a meeting of the **Estates General** in 1789, which hadn’t met since 1614?

*The king needed approval for new taxes to keep the country from bankruptcy. His royal decree to impose new taxes was declared null and void by the Parlement of Paris, setting off protests across the country. The king had to bow to public opinion and call the meeting.*

1. Describe the make-up of the three estates of France.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | % of pop. | Who were they | What did they want |
| First Estate | ½ % | Clergy | Parish priests wanted reform and were dissatisfied with church leaders, sympathetic to the third estate |
| Second Estate | 1.5% | Nobles | Mostly conservatives who supported the status quo, but 1/3 were liberals who supported major changes |
| Third Estate | 98% | Peasants, laborers, merchants, professionals, every else | Liberty and Equality |

1. Why did members of the Third Estate form the **National Assembly**?

*The problem was that the Third Estate wanted to meet together with the other two estates so it would not be outvoted 2-1 as was usual in the past. When the king refused to order the clergy and nobility to sit with them in a single body, they voted to form the National Assembly and pledged not to disband until they had been recognized as a national assembly and written a new constitution for France.*

1. What did the National Assembly pledge with the **Tennis Court Oath**?

*Pledged not to disband until they had been recognized as a national assembly and written a new constitution for France.*

1. How did the King respond to the Tennis Court Oath?

*Initially he was ambivalent, but three days later ordered the three estates to meet together. He then called an army of 18,000 to Paris to bring the delegates under control and dismissed his finance minister and other liberal ministers. This preparation of apparent violence led to the Storming of the Bastille.*

1. What were the causes and outcomes of the peasant uprisings in 1789?

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Cause | Effect |
| Storming of the Bastille July 14 | *A combination of forces sparked a revolutionary spirit – rising bread prices, inflation and unemployment, and the dismissal of Necker, combined with knowledge of the king’s troop build-up led to the storming to gain weapons for the city’s defense* | *Several hundred stormed the prison, killed the guards. Louis XVI reinstated Necker and withdrew troops from Paris* |
| Great Fear | *Fears that marauders and vagabonds had been hired by their landlords* | *Peasants rose against their lords, reoccupied common lands, destroyed documents of obligations* |

1. What changes did the National Assembly make in August 1789?
   1. *Abolished noble privileges (peasant serfdom, hunting rights, feeds for legal cases, dues, etc.)*
   2. *Abolished tithes paid to the church*
2. What was guaranteed by the **Declaration of the Rights of Man**, issued by the National Assembly on August 27, 1789?

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| --- |
| * 1. *A. Equally before the law* |
| *B. Representative government for sovereign people* |
| *C. Individual freedom* |

1. What was the cause and effect of the **Women’s March to Versailles** in October 1789?

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| --- | --- |
| Cause | Effect |
| *The economic crisis worsened for the people of Paris after the Bastille and bread prices skyrocketed. They wanted relief and were protesting the prices.* | *The king and his family were brought to live in Paris* |

1. What is a **constitutional monarchy**?

*A government in which monarchial power is restricted by a legislative body. In this case, the king remained the head of state but all lawmaking power resided in the National Assembly, elected by the wealthiest half of French men.*

1. What changes were made by the **September 1791 constitution**?

*Broadened women’s rights to seek divorce, inherit property, and obtain financial support for illegitimate children from fathers, but excluded women from political office and voting. The king would be the head of state with the National assembly the lawmaking body.*

# Identification

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| Abbé Sieyes  *What is the 3rd Estate*  (p. 621) | *The Third Estate was the lifeblood of France, while the other estates were more a burden on France that could be eliminated with no negative impact. The Third Estate should rule France.* |
| Olympe de Gouges  *Declaration of the Rights of Women*  (p. 625) | *Nearly identical to the Declaration . . . of Man issued by the National Assembly - she wanted equal rights for men* ***and*** *women* |
| Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1790)  p. 625 | *Established by those who distrusted popular piety and superstitious religion, it established a national church with priests chosen by voters, forced the Catholic clergy to take an oath of loyalty to the new government. Condemned by the Pope, many Christians were appalled by this action and this sharpened the divided between the educated classes and common people* |

# ***Ch. 19-4 p.626-633 World War and Republican France***

# Identify the contributions of the following individuals

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Literary work | Main idea |
| Edmund Burke (1729-1797) | *Reflections on the Revolution in France* | *Burke was a conservative who believed the revolution was wrong, that the old order should not have been challenged, and the result would be chaos.* |
| Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797) | *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* | *Women should receive the same rights and privileges as men, including education and political rights* |

1. Define and state the significance of the following

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| --- | --- |
| Declaration of Pilnitz | *Issued by Austria and Prussia, it professed their willingness to intervene in France to restore Louis XVI’s rule if necessary. It was intended to quiet things in France but inspired the Jacobins and others with a strong patriotic fury* |
| Legislative Assembly | *The French representative body that convened in October 1791 and had new delegates and character from the National Assembly. Many members were younger and less cautious than their predecessors.* |
| Jacobin Club | *A political club in revolutionary France whose members were well-educated radical republicans* |
| Second revolution | *From 1792-1795, this phase of the revolution saw the fall of the French monarchy and introduced a rapid radicalization of politics. Marked by Louis’s imprisonment and the September Massacres.* |
| Girondists | *A moderate group that fought for control of the French National convention in 1793 – they did not want to execute the king but were outvoted by the Mountain led by Robespierre and Louis was executed.* |
| The Mountain | *Led by Robespierre, it was the radical faction at the National Convention and seized legislative power in 1793/* |
| Maximilian Robespierre | *Leader of the Mountain who emerged as leader of the Committee of Public Safety and orchestrated the Reign of Terror.* |
| National Convention | *Popularly elected in September 1792, it replaced the Legislative Assembly and proclaimed France a republic, a nation in which the people and not a monarch are sovereign. It convicted Louis of treason* |

1. Why did the Revolution turn into war in 1792? *The Legislative Assembly declared war on Austria following the Declaration of Pillnitz, which had threatened Austrian and Prussian involvement in France. The new legislative assembly was younger, well education, and less cautious than the National Assembly, and were committed to liberal revolution and distrustful of the monarchy after Louis’ attempted flight. They responded by declaring war as they believed the courts of Europe were plotting against them.*
2. Who were the ***sans-culottes***, what did they want, and why were they important to radical leaders such as Robespierre?

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| Who were they | What did they want | Why were they important |
| *They were the laboring men and women of Paris made up of petty traders and laboring poor – they were known as sans-culottes – without breeches – because they wore trousers instead of the knee breeches of the aristocracy and the solid middle class.* | *Their main interests were economic – unemployment, food shortages* | *They were important to Robespierre and the radicals as the Mountain joined with them to engineer popular uprisings in order to force the National Convention to arrest 31 Girondist deputies and gain power themselves.* |

1. What actions were taken by the Committee of Public Safety to deal with the domestic and foreign problems of France in 1793-1794?

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| *Collaborated with sans-culottes and established a planned economy with maximum prices set for key products, especially bread (Law of Maximum)* |
| *Put people to work in the production of arms and munitions for the war effort, told craftsmen what to produce, nationalized many small workshops, and requisitioned raw materials and supplies (Levy en Masse)* |
| *Instituted the Reign of Terror to enforce compliance with republican beliefs and practices and tried enemies of the nation for political crimes.* |

1. Why did the Committee of Public Safety feel it necessary to institute a **Reign of Terror**?

*France was faced with foreign threats from war with Austria, Prussia, Britain, Holland, and Spain and domestic threats from unemployment and food shortages. The Reign of Terror was an attempt to solidify the home front for the revolution and Robespierre’s policies.*

1. Identify the actions taken by the Committee of Public Safety.

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| To increase unity | *Suppressed women’s participation in political debate – women should stay at home* |
| To bring the revolution into everyday life | *Sponsored revolutionary art and songs and a new series of secular festivals to celebrate republican virtue and patriotism, adopted decimal system of weights and measures, and a new 10-day week calendar* |
| Regarding religion | *De-Christianization aimed to eliminate Catholic symbols and beliefs* |
| Mobilization of troops | *A strong sense of nationalism inspired an intense emotional commitment to the defense of the nation. After August 1793, all unmarried young men were subject to the draft. The army was well trained and equipped* |

# Identification

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| Law of Maximum | *A law established by the Committee of Public Safety that put price controls (economic) in place to keep prices from increasing.* |
| Levee en Masse | *An order issued by the Committee of Public Safety in 1793 that called all Frenchmen and women – young and old - into service in the name of the revolution* |

# Why was Robespierre was executed?

# *As Robespierre’s Reign of Terror extended he wiped out many of his critics and sent two of his closest collaborators to the guillotine, including Danton. A group of radicals in the Convention feared they would be next and turned on him, feeling he had gone too far with the Terror.*

1. What was the ***Thermidorian reaction***?

*Period after the execution of Robespierre where the middle class rejected the radicalism of the sans-culottes in favor of moderate policies that favored property owners. Many of the controls of the revolution such as price controls were abolished, leaving prices to quickly rise.*

Define and state the significance of the following:

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| Constitution of 1795 by the National Convention | *Guaranteed the National Convention’s economic position and political supremacy. Although most people could cote for only electors who would then elect legislators, this reduced the number of men eligible to become electors by instating substantial property requirements. Also included a bicameral legislative system for the first time with a Council of 500 and Council of Elders. Also granted executive power to a five-man Directory* |
| Council of 500 | *Served as the lower house in the bicameral legislature and initiated legislation that the Council of Elders would then approve.* |
| Council of Elders | *Composed of about 250 members aged 40 or older and acted as the upper house of the bicameral legislature and approved new laws.* |
| The Directory | *Five-man executive body created by the constitution of 1795. Viewed generally as corrupt and ineffective.* |

# ***Ch. 19-5 p. 634-640 The Napoleonic era, 1799-1815***

31. Who was Napoleon Bonaparte and how did he come to power in France?

*Born in Corsica into an impoverished family, he rose rapidly through the French army and commanded forces in Italy and Egypt. Revered for his heroism , he and his conspirators staged a coup d’etat and overthrew the Directory, becoming the First Consul of the republic with a new constitution consolidating his power.*

1. What is a **coup d’etat?** *An overthrow of an existing government*
2. In what way did Abbè Sieyès’s motto, “Confidence from below, authority from above,” aptly apply to the rule of Napoleon? *The people of France were ready for stability and had faith in Napoleon to provide just that. That’s why the new constitution of 1799 was overwhelmingly approved in a national vote. He use is power to make significant changes that strengthened France.*

33. Describe the impact of the following achievements of Napoleon.

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| Civil Code of 1804  (Napoleonic Code) | *Established equality of all male citizens before the law, and security of wealth and private property. Women lost rights and were made dependents on their husbands or fathers* |
| Bank of France | *Printed paper currency, collected taxes, gave loans, and strengthened the economy.* |
| Amnesty granted to émigrés (1800, 1802) | *Allowed the return of those who had fled during the revolution in exchange for a pledge of loyalty to Napoleon. It gave Napoleon experienced and qualified people to fill high posts in the expanding centralized state.* |
| Concordat of 1801 | *Gave the pope the right for French Catholics to practice their religion freely, but Napoleon gained political power by now being able to nominate bishops, pay the clergy, and exert great influence over the Church. Pope Pius VIII agreed and soon regretted his decision.* |
| Confederation of the Rhine (1806) | *Napoleon reorganized the German states, abolished many of the tin ones and the HREmpire and established the Confed. of the Rhine, a union of 15 German states minus Austria, Prussia, and Saxony, with himself the “protector”* |

34. What was accomplished by the following treaties and/or wars with France?

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| Treaty | Countries involved | Results |
| Treaty of Lunèville  (1801) | *Austria & France* | *Austria accepted the loss of its Italian possessions, and German territory on the west bank of the Rhine was incorporated into France. This left Britain alone to fight France.* |
| Treaty of Amiens 1802 | *Great Britain & France* | *France kept control of Holland, the Austrian Netherlands, the west bank of Rhine, and most of the Italian peninsula. This peace with honor & profit increased Napoleon’s popularity at home.* |
| Battle of TrafalgarOctober 1805 | *France & Spain vs. Britain* | *Combined fleet of France and Spain destroyed by the British, showing that an invasion of Britain was impossible. Napoleon used the wartime atmosphere to have himself elected Emperor.* |
| Battle of AusterlitzDecember 1805 | *Austria & Russia* | *Napoleon defeated them, Russia backed off and Austria gave huge territorial rewards in exchange for peace; Third Coalition of Austria, Russia, Sweden, and Britain collapsed* |

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| Treaties of Tilset1807 | *Prussia & Austria v France* | *France defeated Prussia at Jena and Auerstädt and later Russia. Prussia lost half its population and Russia accepted Napoleon’s reorganization of western and central Europe and promised to enforce*  *Napoleon’s economic blockade against*  *Britain (Continental System)* |

35. Describe the Grand Empire of Napoleon in terms of its three parts.

* 1. Grand Empire – France, Belgium, Holland, parts of northern Italy, and much of German territory on the east bank
  2. Satellite kingdoms where he put his family members on the thrones
  3. Independent but allied states of Austria, Prussia, Russia

36. What country was Napoleon trying to defeat with the **Continental System** and was he successful? What

happened? *Since he couldn’t defeat England militarily, he hoped to defeat it economically. He was not successful, because it harmed the people of Europe more than Britain, the blockade wasn’t intact, and Russia ultimately broke it.*

37. What was the effect of French rule in his Grand Empire?

*In areas incorporated into France and in the satellites, feudal dues and serfdom was abolished to benefit the peasants and middle class. His heavy taxes in money and men to support his armies made him regarded more as a conqueror than a liberator. French rule sparked patriotic upheavals and encouraged the growth of nationalism.*

38. Why did Napoleon invade Russia in 1812 and what was the result of his invasion?

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Cause | Course | Consequence |
| *Alexander I had openly repudiated the Continental System* | *Napoleon invaded in June 1812 with 600,000 troops and was caught by the winter and scorched earth retreat of the Russia army.* | *He retreated, more than 370,000 of his men had died and another 200,000 taken prisoner. He went to Paris and was forced to abdicate.* |

# Identification

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| Elba | *Island off the coast of Italy where Napoleon was exiled after his abdication. He was allowed to keep his imperial title and France was to pay him a yearly income* |
| Louis XVIII (r. 1814-1824) | *Bourbon monarch restored to the throne after Napoleon’s abdication, he promised to rule France with leniency and abide by the Constitutional Charter* |
| Constitutional Charter | *Issued by Louis XVIII, it accepted many of France’s revolutionary changes and guaranteed civil liberties.* |
| Hundred Days | *The time in which Napoleon ruled after fleeing Elba, returning to Paris, and raising a small band of followers who quickly gained the support of French officers and soldiers. Louis XVIII fled but an alliance was formed and ultimately defeated Napoleon at Waterloo* |
| Waterloo | *Site of Napoleon’s final defeat by coalition forces* |
| St. Helena | *Island off the western coast of Africa where Napoleon was imprisoned after his defeat at Waterloo* |

***Ch. 19-6 p. 640-643 The Haitian Revolution 1791-1804***

39. Describe the social groups and roles that made up Saint-Dominique prior to the French Revolution in 1879.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Creoles | Enslaved people | Free people of color |
| *People of European descent born in the colonies.* | *500,000 – Worked on island sugar plantations, met with brutal treatment by white planters* | *40,000 free people of color -0 often the mixed-race offspring of slaveholders and their slaves.* |

40. What did each of the following groups hope to achieve as a result of the turmoil in Europe in the 1780s?

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Creoles | Enslaved people | Free people of color |
| *Wanted to gain control of their own affairs, as had the American colonies, and be independent from France* | *New of abolitionist movements in France gave them hope that they may be granted their freedon.* | *Wanted political enfranchisement and equal status with whites* |

41. As the slave revolts grew in the summer of 1792, Spain intervened and aided the rebel slaves. Why did

they do that?

*The revolutionary chaos gave Spain and Britain an opportunity to capture the profitable colony*

42. Why did France abolish slavery throughout the colony in 1793 and then throughout all territories by 1794?

*The National Convention in France was desperate for forces to oppose France’s enemies and promised freedom for all who fought for France.*

43. What is the major significance of the Haitian War of Independence?

*Haiti was the first independent state created from a successful large-scale slave revolt, which shocked and spread fear through slaveholding societies in the Caribbean and the US. It spread the idea that liberty, equality, and fraternity must apply to all people.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reasons for rise | Domestic accomplishments | Foreign successes | Important people |
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| --- |
| **Napoleon Bonaparte (r. 1799-1815)**  **Titles:**  **\***  **\***  **\***  **\***  **\*** |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Reasons for fall | Important terms & places | Impact |
|  |  |  |

**Crane Briton – *Anatomy of a Revolution***

## **Conditions Which Seem to be present as Causes of Major Revolutions**

1. People from all social classes are discontented.

2. People feel restless and held down by unacceptable restrictions in society.

3. People are hopeful about the future, but are being forced to accept less than they had hoped

for.

4. People are beginning to think of themselves as belonging to a social class, and there is a

growing bitterness between social classes.

5. The social classes closest to one another are the most hostile.

6. The scholars and thinkers give up on the way their society operates.

7. The government does not respond to the needs of its society.

8. The leaders of the government and the ruling class begin to doubt themselves. Some join

with the opposition groups.

9. The government is unable to get enough support from any group to save itself.

10. The government cannot organize its finances correctly and is either going bankrupt or trying

to tax heavily and unjustly.

# ***The Course that Revolutions Seem to Take***

1. Impossible demands made of government which, if granted, would mean its end.

2. Unsuccessful government attempts to suppress revolutionaries.

3. Revolutionaries gain power and seem united.

4. Once in power, revolutionaries begin to quarrel among themselves and unity begins to

dissolve.

5. The moderates gain the leadership but fail to satisfy those who insist on further changes.

6. Power is gained by progressively more radical groups until finally a lunatic fringe gains almost

complete control.

7. A strong man emerges and assumes great power.

8. The extremists try to create a "heaven on earth" by introducing their whole program and by

punishing all their opponents.

9. A period of terror occurs.

10. Moderate groups regain power. The revolution is over.